



Federal Sources of Freight Data

Freight transportation contributes to economic growth, affects state and local transportation networks, adds to highway congestion, and poses safety concerns and environmental challenges. Thus, state and local transportation planners and decisionmakers need timely and reliable freight data to analyze the relationship between freight demand and economic activities, identify and locate needed infrastructure and operational improvements, and meet the needs of their communities.

Freight data are available from many public and private sources and vary by collection method, timeframe, format, and quality. Although no one source can provide a comprehensive picture of freight transportation, the following list of major sources of publicly available freight data can provide valuable insights on volume and value of freight movements, freight infrastructure, freight vehicles, and the economy.

Freight Transportation Data Sources

Data	Description	Availability*
Volume/Value of Freight Movements		
Freight Analysis Framework (FAF)	State commodity movements by mode, value, and weight for 1998 and forecasts for 2010 and 2020. Updates underway.	www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/freight_analysis/faf
Commodity Flow Survey (CFS)	Origin/destination of commodities shipped in U.S. by mode, value, and weight. Updated every 5 years.	www.census.gov/econ/www/cfsnew.html
Transborder Surface Freight Data	North American merchandise trade data by commodity and mode. Geographic detail for U.S. exports to and imports from Canada and Mexico. Updated monthly and annually. Monthly data available by e-mail.	www.bts.gov/transborder
U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico Border Crossings	Number of trucks, truck containers, train, and rail containers crossing into the U.S. through land ports on U.S.-Canadian and U.S.-Mexican borders. Updated monthly and annually.	www.bts.gov/programs/international/border_crossing_entry_data
Carload Rail Waybill Sample	Origin/destination of commodities shipped by rail, weight, number of cars involved, length of haul. Data based on the proprietary Carload Waybill Sample of Class I railroads.	www.stb.dot.gov
Waterborne Commerce: Domestic	Tonnage and trips by commodity for major ports/waterways and origin and destination data on waterborne cargo movements by waterways and harbors. Updated annually.	www.iwr.usace.army.mil/ndc
Waterborne Commerce: Foreign	Value and weight of cargo by type of service for U.S. waterborne imports and exports. Updated monthly and annually.	www.iwr.usace.army.mil/ndc/usforeign
Oil Pipeline	Oil movements by multistate regions.	www.eia.doe.gov/neic/a-z/petroleuma-z.htm#p
Air Traffic Statistics	Air traffic, tonnage, and revenue ton-miles data for large air carriers and by airport. Updated quarterly and yearly.	www.bts.gov/programs/airline_information

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Freight Transportation Data Sources (continued)

Data	Description	Availability*
Infrastructure		
National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)	Geospatial attributes of infrastructure for all modes and facilities. Updated annually.	www.bts.gov/programs/geographic_information_services
Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)	Extent, condition, performance, use, and operating characteristics of U.S. highways.	www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/ohpi/hpms
National Highway Planning Network (NHPN)	Miles of current and planned roadways. Updated annually.	www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/nhpn
Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings	Grade crossing location and safety data. Other rail network characteristics in NTAD.	http://gis.fra.dot.gov
U.S. Ports and Waterway Facilities Database	Physical characteristics of coastal, Great Lakes, and inland U.S. ports, terminals, and locks. Updated on an ongoing basis.	www.iwr.usace.army.mil/ndc
Freight Vehicles		
Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey (VIUS)	Physical and operational characteristics of private and commercial trucks registered/licensed in U.S., commodities hauled, truck configurations, trip mileage. Updated every 5 years.	www.census.gov/econ/www/viusmain.html
FAF Highway Capacity Database	Truck flows at highway segment level for 1998 and forecasts for 2010 and 2020. Updates underway.	www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/freight_analysis/faf
VTRIS-W	Number of trucks weighed and vehicle weight information by type of vehicle and highway functional class. Updated annually.	http://apps.fhwa.dot.gov/vtris
Highway Statistics	State truck registrations, motor vehicle and motor carrier tax receipts, and disposition of tax receipts. Updated annually.	www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/ohim/hs02/mv.htm
Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Data	Commercial motor vehicle crashes, fatalities, and injuries.	www.fmcsa.dot.gov/factsfigs/dashome.htm
Waterborne Transportation Lines	Inventory of U.S. vessels moving waterborne commerce. Updated annually.	www.iwr.usace.army.mil/ndc/veslchar/veslchar.htm
Economy		
U.S. Economic Census	Economic data by sector, including number of establishments, sales, payroll, inventories, operating expenses. Updated every 5 years	www.census.gov/econ/census02
Regional Economic Accounts	Gross state product, personal income, population, and employment at state level.	www.bea.gov/bea/regional/data.htm
U.S. Census County Business Patterns	Economic activity at the county level by industry.	www.census.gov/epcd/cbp
Wages, Earnings, and Benefits	Data categorized by geographic area, occupation, and industry. Updated quarterly and annually.	www.bls.gov/bls/wages.htm
Productivity	Output per hour of labor; international comparisons included. Updated quarterly and annually.	www.bls.gov/bls/productivity.htm
Comprehensive Tabulations		
Freight Facts and Figures	Volume and value of freight flows, network characteristics, economic, safety, and energy use data, and environmental effects. Updated annually.	www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight
National Transportation Statistics	Overview of the extent, condition, and performance of U.S. transportation system. Updated annually.	www.bts.gov/publications/national_transportation_statistics
North American Transportation Statistics	Information on transportation and related activities in Canada, the United States, and Mexico and between the three countries. Updated annually.	http://nats.inegi.gob.mx/nats

*Web sites available as of October 25, 2004. Check www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/freight_analysis/data_sources.htm for upgrades.

